

ities, all of them unadulterated, for perhaps half the price the lower orders now pay for these beverages. The earnings of many women amount to no more than sixpence a-day: luxuries of diet to such persons seem out of question, yet, by an able, thrifty cook, many a palatable nourishing stew might be provided at a price which could be afforded out of even that sixpence a-day.

An establishment of this nature should neither be, nor bear the semblance of a charitable institution: on the contrary, in all its parts, it should be calculated to encourage self-respect, and self-respect is a never failing consequence, where poor persons are conscious that they are living honestly on the fruits of their own labour. A further encouragement to this good feeling, would arise from such arrangements of the building as would contribute to decent and cleanly habits. It is on this account that in the dormitory each individual should have her own *enclosed* bed place. This may seem extravagant, but it need not really add much to the first cost of the building.

A lodging house of this description would need of course a supervising head; the *landlady* she might be termed. This person would have to enforce desirable regulations, as well as to decide in each case to the admission of lodgers. Lodgers, on entering, might be required in some way to testify their acquiescence in the rules prescribed. It might be amongst other regulations, that no spirits or other strong drinks should ever be indulged in, no foul language of any kind allowed, a fixed time for re-entering the house of evenings rigorously enforced, with the exception, however, of cases where the landlady might see good reason for according a previous special permission to out-stay that hour; a certain degree of neatness and cleanliness of person and apparel required, and the assembling of all lodgers for short prayers morning and evening.

The realization of these proposed cheap lodging-houses, depends essentially on architectural skill in devising plans for them, and therefore seems no unworthy subject for the pages of *THE BUILDER*; and it may be added that thought and talent, perhaps beyond that required to devise a palace, must necessarily come forth when the question is to provide a building with the comforts above specified for so small a sum per head as fourteen-pence a week. M. B.

DISFIGUREMENT OF BUILDINGS.

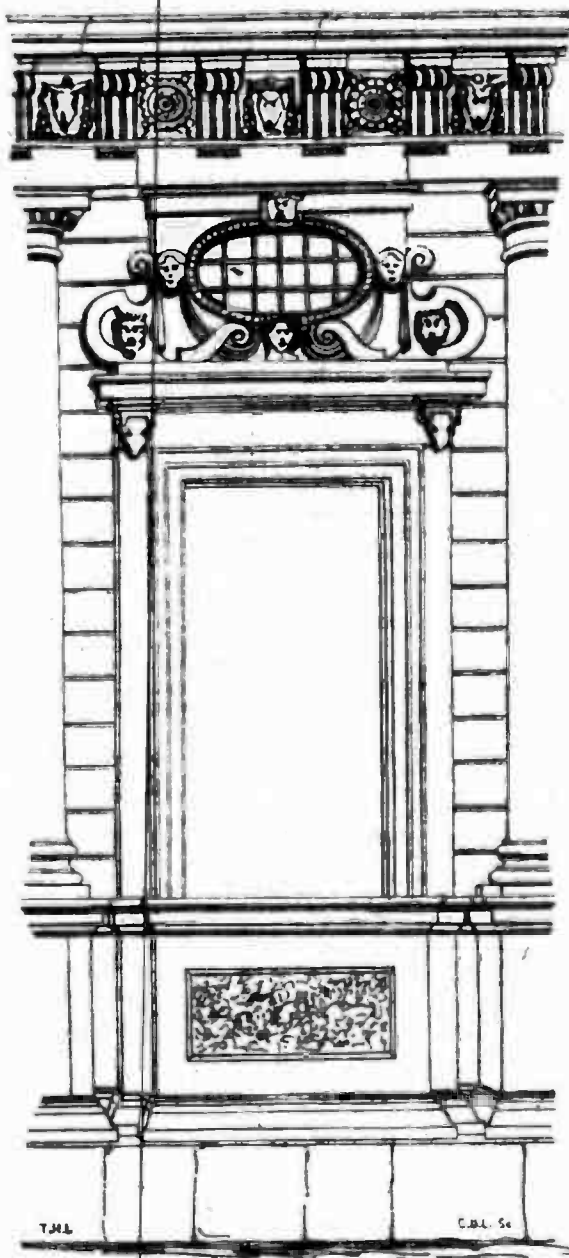
THE ROYAL ACADEMY.

A CORRESPONDENT points attention to the disfigurement of the new church at the north end of Westbourne-terrace, by an odious zinc chimney carried from the vestry to the main building. While the east end of the National Gallery and Royal Academy of Fine Arts remains so outrageously deformed and disfigured, as it now is, by a zinc pipe and accompaniments, churchwardens any where may justify themselves without difficulty. We pointed out this caricature at the Royal Academy long ago, and our objection, made in good temper, was echoed by every newspaper in London. But there still stands the obnoxious steam-boat funnel, at the foot of which poor Minerva sits sorrowful and ashamed.

If our accomplished friends Barry, Cockerell, Hardwick, and Smirke, under whose direction, as the architect-academicians, the public, of course, suppose the monstrosity was erected, really say they cannot cure the smoky chimney it represents, by any other means, perhaps the council will give us a chance, and simply for the sake of the academy's reputation, we will have it done, and it shall cost them nothing!

The Duke of York's Column, Waterloo-place.—At the inquest on the body of the unfortunate individual who precipitated himself from the top of the Duke of York's Column a short time ago, a hope was expressed that a cage-work of iron would be put over the top, as at the Mosmeor in the city. We grieve to find that this has been listened to: the column is already ugly enough without being further disfigured; and there is no sufficient ground to justify the step. We might just as well put a grating over the Thames, and allow no man to use a razor because one destroyed himself when shaving.

WINDOW AT MILAN.



WINDOW AT MILAN.

SOME of our readers may get a hint for street architecture from the accompanying engraving of a window at Milan. It is from a sketch by Mr. Lewis.

NEW STYLE IN ARCHITECTURE.

THE question, whether we are to invent a new style, or content ourselves with making servile copies of ancient ones, has of late occupied much of your paper; not more so, however, than the importance of the subject deserves. Having heard the advocates of both sides, their statements have only confirmed the view which I had previously formed, that it is hopeless to attempt the invention of a new style; and that it is foolish to tie ourselves down to wholesale copying.

There is not, I believe, a single instance in the past history of our art, of any nation inventing a style of architecture after a national one had been once established; and the reason is obvious—human nature is always the same nature: men are the creatures of habit in all ages of the world, and there never was a truer saying than that “necessity is the mother of invention.” It has certainly given birth to all architectural styles.

A young nation in its growth has rising

wants, which, year after year, little by little, will be supplied. Those called on to furnish this supply will not task their ingenuity, so long as their memory will furnish the precedent. In a colonized nation the reminiscences of the style of their mother land will, for a long time, bias the first attempts; but new materials, fresh elements of construction, and other wants, induce gradual changes, which, having no constructed precedents to check their growth, spring up into forms of beauty sufficiently distinct in nature from their parent germ to deserve the name of a style. There is no exceptional case that I am aware of to this law of architectural progress. Whenever a nation has changed its national architecture, the substitute has invariably been an importation. The isolated state of the nations which reared styles, was the cause of these new creations; and the hourly intercourse now taking place throughout the world is the simple reason why we can never hope to see another new style arise on the earth.

When Jacob made that cunning bargain with his father-in-law, Laban, who agreed to assign to Jacob all the speckled and spotted of the flock, he, to secure a great increase of those thus distinguished, in the period of their conception laid before them streaked rods, and “the cattle conceived before the rods, and brought forth cattle ring-straked, speckled, and spotted.”